Spanish separatists charged
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Gathering of Hogs legends
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Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Rhonda Loo**, a judge on the Hawaiian island of Maui, sentenced Daren Young, found guilty of violating a no-contact order, to writing 144 compliments about his ex-girlfriend in response to the 144 "nasty" text messages and calls he sent her over three hours in April.

■ **Jimmy Galindo Jr.**, 31, and 26-year-old Marco Torres face burglary and vandalism counts after officers and a police dog, investigating a burglary alarm at a denture business in Nashville, Tenn., found the pair hiding in its ceiling, authorities said.

■ **Jessica Clouse**, a Pennsylvania state trooper, calling it a lesson on why gun owners need to secure their weapons at home, said a 10-year-old boy loaded a gun and accidentally wounded his 11-year-old brother in the leg when the two thought they heard an intruder.

■ **Yuri Subotin**, 67, said he would appeal being sentenced to house arrest by a judge in Vilnius, Lithuania, for publicly praising Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and crimes committed by the Soviet Union during its nearly five-decade-long occupation of the Baltic nation.

■ **Darren Sumner**, publisher of the *Sapulpa Herald* in Sapulpa, Okla., opened the door to his office restroom to find an adult male bobcat that hissed and jumped at him before he managed to slam the door shut, trapping the animal until it could be captured and released into the wild.

■ **Nathaniel Nelson** faces an arson charge after setting a fire and spray-painting racist graffiti on a predominantly black church in Kansas City, Mo., where he worked, in order to cover up a theft, federal prosecutors said.

■ **Herbert Tipton**, 71, of DeLand, Fla., faces firearms and other charges after sheriff's deputies said he fired several shots inside his house at imaginary intruders and wouldn't let his adult daughter leave because he thought the intruders were about to hurt them.

■ **Kayla Theisler**, a student at Youngstown State University in Ohio, called it exciting "to be a part of something never done before" when she and 971 other students, alumni and community members gathered on campus to set a record for the most people dressed in penguin costumes at a gathering.

■ **Daryl Meyerrenke** of the Family Pet Center in Anderson, Ohio, said a group of neighbors ignored danger warnings and spent hours following a deer before they caught it to remove an orange plastic pumpkin bucket that was stuck over the deer's nose.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mostly cloudy.
High 56 with northeast winds.
Tonight A chance of rain in the evening and likely after midnight.
Low 44.

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AP/ALEX BRANDON

Paul Manafort makes his way through television cameras Monday as he walks from Federal District Court in Washington after pleading innocent to felony charges of conspiracy against the United States and other counts.

Russia probe snares former Trump aides

Innocent, Manafort, partner plead over money schemes

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller on Monday revealed charges against three former officials with President Donald Trump's campaign, the first criminal allegations to come from probes into possible Russian influence in U.S. political affairs.

Former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his longtime business partner, onetime Trump aide Rick Gates, were indicted on 12 counts, including conspiracy against the United States, conspiracy to launder money, acting as an unregistered foreign agent, making false statements and several charges related to failing to report foreign bank and financial accounts as part of their work advising a Russia-friendly political party in Ukraine. The indictment alleges the men moved money through hidden bank accounts in Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Seychelles.

Manafort and Gates pleaded innocent in a brief appearance in D.C. federal court Monday afternoon. A federal magistrate judge put

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GATES' TIES to Manafort are lengthy. Page 6A.

DEMOCRATIC LOBBYIST tied to Manafort steps down. Page 7A.

2 officials back war law in force

Authority covers terrorists in 19 nations, senators told

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Senior U.S. national security officials told a Senate committee on Monday that the 2001 war authorization for combat operations against terrorist groups is legally sufficient for operations in 19 countries.

Defense Secretary James Mattis warned that prematurely repealing the law could signal America is "backing away from this fight."

Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee three months after they informed the panel that the post-Sept. 11, 2001, law gave the military ample authority to fight terrorist groups and that a new law was unnecessary. A separate authorization for the war in Iraq, approved by Congress in 2002, also remains in force.

The two men said that if

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Kenyatta repeats as Kenya's leader

AP/SAYYID ABDUL AZIM

Uhuru Kenyatta (left) and William Ruto, deputy president, chat Monday in Nairobi, Kenya, after they were announced the winners of the rerun of the country's presidential race. Kenyatta, who kept the presidency in the first election, won the second contest with 98 percent of the votes. *Article, 5A*

Pot bids unfairly rejected, suits say

Confusion over guidelines cited

JOHN MORITZ
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A group of applicants vying to open some of Arkansas' first medical marijuana businesses filed anonymous lawsuits last week against the commission tasked with weighing their proposals.

The lawsuits, which were filed and placed under seal in Pulaski County, allege that the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission erred in its initial assessment of hundreds of applications submitted last month when it culled several applicants for failing to meet the minimum requirements.

The names of applicants and their associated corporation were left out of the complaints to protect the anonymity of the process, according to a copy of the filings obtained by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

The lawsuits seek a temporary restraining order to

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School initiative's test-takers stand out

Program participants field nearly half of state's college-credit qualifiers

CYNTHIA HOWELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The 61 high schools that participated in the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science program last school year produced almost half of the state's Advanced Placement math, science and English test-takers and 44 percent of the scores that qualified students for college credit.

Students who earn college credit for their high school work can realize savings in college tuition costs or have the time to take more advanced-level college courses because they have completed introductory courses.

The initiative schools make up 23 percent of the state's 261 high schools in which students took Advanced Placement tests in math, science and English in 2016-17, Ken James, president of the Arkansas initiative, said in releasing the organization's annual report.

The Arkansas initiative, a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the National Math and Science Initiative since 2008 and based at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, provides course content training to teachers of Advanced Placement and pre-Advanced Placement courses, James said.

It also provides tutoring

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Judge blocks Trump's transgender troops ban

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's promised ban on transgender Americans serving in the armed forces, ruling that an earlier policy of inclusion must remain in effect.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled that the transgender service members who had sued over Trump's policy were likely to win their lawsuit. She directed a return to the situation that existed before Trump announced his new policy this summer, saying the administration had provided no solid evidence for why a ban should be implemented.

Trump had ordered a reinstatement of the long-standing policy that barred transgender individuals from joining the military. Service members who were revealed to be transgender were subject to discharge. Under President Barack Obama, that policy was changed last year to allow transgender people to serve openly.

The Trump administration may appeal Kollar-Kotelly's decision, but the injunction means Trump's policy cannot be implemented while the case is litigated. No trial date has been set.

Kollar-Kotelly allowed to stand a part of the proposal that would bar federal health funds from being used for sex reassignment surgery. The administration

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Strong weather hits Northeast

AP/Standard Times/PETER PEREIRA

Peter Raymond gets some help from Robert Freeman in the recovery of items from Raymond's sailboat Monday in Dartmouth, Mass. A strong weather system hit the Northeast early Monday, sending sailboats in the area crashing onto Padanaram Beach. *Article, 4A*